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Important Cats

Cats:

Sage - Ginger and russet speckled she-cat with amber eyes.

Maple - Calico she-cat with soft blue eyes, fluffy tail and ears.

Moon - Black and White tom with green eyes.

Stone - Dark gray tabby tom with brown eyes.

Salmon - Light ginger she-cat with Light blue eyes.

Moss - Grey tabby tom with vivid green eyes. White paws and ear tips.

Sunny - Orange and white she-cat with tabby markings and brown eyes.

Echo - Seal point tom with light blue eyes. Scar going down his neck. Crooked tail.

Other Cats:

Mint - Old white and brown she-cat with dark brown eyes.

Known Starclan Cats:

Roaring Tiger - Grey tabby tom with blue and brown eyes. Long whiskers and a long bushy tail.

Prologue

Stone was watching over camp, inspecting everything. Winter had finally ended, but snow still stuck to the ground. The frost made his bones and muscles feel soar, and he could only imagine how the oldest cat, Mint, felt like.

Just as he thought of the old she-cat, Mint limped out of her make shift den, glancing around until she spotted Stone. "Hey there youngin, you ought to be sleeping at this time of night." She rasped, limping over. "The same to you. You shouldn't be out here in such cold weathers, we have to travel in the morning." He spoke with a serious yet soft tone. Mint only signed and shook her head. "I won't go with you." She rasped, her voice full of tiredness.

Stone blinked in shock. "But what about Salmon? She is your kit, and Salmon has been so determined to finish this journey." Stone couldn't help but ask about the sweet she-cat. If Maple hadn't of become his mate he would of surely picked Salmon. But Salmon was joining in Sage's clan, becoming her medicine cat. Sunny was joining in his. But again Mint shook her head. "I've already spoke to her, she understands I can't go further then this." Mint half growled, her tail flicked quickly. "But you do me a favor boy." Mint looked as serious as she could, staring into Stone's brown eyes. "You take this group and get them to their homes. You go to your valley and make your clan. You follow your father's words, no matter how strange they were." Mint said, before coughing.

"My bones have grown to thin to keep going with you. But no matter what, I'll always see you as my little kit. Thank you, Stone." Stone rested his head on Mint for a moment before getting up. "Let

me take you to that up-walker house at least, you can live there, the rest of your life comfy and in peace." Mint didn't go against his words, so the two padded out of camp.

By the time they had gotten to the house, dawn had set. Stone wished his farewells before slinking back into the forest.

Chapter One

Sage was curled next to the bramble wall, her tail was curled close to her face. It wasn't until the soft nudge to her side did she wake up. She tiredly glanced up, noticing it was Salmon waking her. "Come on, Stone said we have to start moving again." She spoke with her normal soft words. "What about Mint? She can hardly move after the winter's harsh cold." Sage asked as she got up, shaking her pelt. Mint only seemed to grow worse as the days went by, hardly moving or eating. Salmon said nothing though, she just merely flicked an ear and slipped outside.

Sage followed after her, noticing cats were outside, quickly eating. Mint was no where to be seen. "Where is Mint?" Sage questioned Stone the moment she was near him. Stone turned from his mate Maple to look at her. "Mint left to live with the up-walkers. We must keep moving." Stone spoke with a grim voice, but his eyes gave away no expression. Sage's jaw dropped and her eyes went wide. "You let her leave?! She is Salmon's mom! Heck, she was pretty much your mom as well!" Sage yowled, glaring at Stone. Her pelt prickled until Salmon softly touched her.

"Mint wanted to leave. We can't hold anything against Stone." Salmon mewed, before turning to Stone. "We are almost to the valley, we must make it, for Roaring Tiger...and for Mint." Salmon spoke softly, and Stone nodded in agreement. Sage was just silently growling, her tail flicking rapidly as the tom had to pass by.

"Don't mind him Sage. We can stay together at the next set of forest, we can start our clan there." Salmon promised, before turning and following Stone and the others out of the small clearing. Sage signed and followed after them, not caring to look back.

The group carried on, they had traveled about four sunrises after Mint had left. Sage felt like her fur might turn into a solid rock with how cold it was. The group stopped to stay in a cave they had found, and Stone had already taken a patrol to make sure no bear or fox was inside. Sage waited until Stone had returned, and when he gave the ok she plopped down close to the small stream that rolled inside the wide clearing.

Sage almost fell asleep if it hadn't of been the quick movement of pelts. "What's wrong?" She asked, half awake. "Maple's stomach is hurting her, the medicine cats are making sure she isn't kitting. She shouldn't be, it's nearly five weeks early.." Echo mewed, who happened to be sitting beside her. Sage glanced up at him, noticing she could only see his outline and some tuffs of fur from inside the darkness of the cave. She then glanced over to Salmon, Sunny, and Moss; each cat close to Maple. Maple let out a pained groan, not able to raise her head. "I think she just ate crow-food, her belly is only making growling sounds." Moss commented, his tail flicking as he exaimned her. Sage noticed Stone was close, his eyes dark and worried.

"This means we can't travel for awhile though, we don't have the herbs to treat her, and we can't give her yarrow, it could hurt her kits." Sunny signed, shaking her head. "She's bird-brained to think it's alright to eat crow-food in the first place." Sage commented to Echo, who merely flicked an ear. Sage signed and got up, knowing she wouldn't get any sleep. "I'll go hunting, anyone want to join me?" Sage called, looking around. Moon slunk out of the shadows. "I'll join, i'd rather not listen to this." He commented. Echo got up as well. "I might as well go." The three padded then padded out of the cave.

It took a moment for Sage to adjust to the sun's bright lights, but finally she did. "Let's follow the stream down to the river, we could catch fish or hunt close to the trees." Moon commented, going ahead and leading. Sage knew the tom wanted to have a clan close to river, and he knew his brother Moss was going to be his medicine cat. Sage was curious about Echo though, the tom never said anything, and he didn't decide who was going to be his medicine

cat. Sage decided she would ask before they returned, so until then she set off, bouncing after Moon and Echo.

Sage had caught about two mice, and now she was after a black bird. It was pecking on a seed, and it didn't seem to notice her. Sage slowly padded along, her pawsteps muffled by loose snow. Suddenly she pounced, grabbing the bird firmly and killing it quickly. She gave thanks to Roaring Tiger before she picked up the bird. That was when Echo slipped threw the bushes, a fish in his mouth. He gently laid it down before nodding. "Good catch." He commented. Sage let out a purr before putting her bird down. "Actually, I have a question. Where are you going to be? Leading I mean.." Sage asked. Echo blinked and looked up from where they came from before looking back at Sage. "In this cave I think, it seems...like somewhere I would live. I'll have the river here, and there is a forest on the other side! If you don't take it I might." He purred in amusement. Sage blinked and looked to the other side. She padded along an edge before it stopped, and down the slope was the shore and the river. She noticed Moon was jumping in, most likely to catch an escaping fish.

Sage glanced from him to the river itself, then to the forest. Many different types of trees seemed to sit on that side. She breathed deeply in shock. She didn't even notice the forest on the other side. "We can travel there! Is the valley close?" Sage asked, spinning around to look at Echo, though he merely shrugged. "I haven't traveled, and I won't. We all need to travel some tonight and find a good meeting place, if you want to as well, you and Stone should travel and see if the valley is close." Echo mumbled before picking up his catch and padded threw the bushes again. Sage mumbled crossly. "Lazy kit." She growled before picking her prey up and racing after him.

Chapter Two

The group had eaten well, as soon as everyone was settled down and rested for awhile, Sage went over to Stone and Echo followed. "We have some news." Sage mewed proudly, her fur puffing out excitedly. Sage allowed Echo to go first. "I'm going to settle down in this cave. I've been thinking about the name, and it shall either be Echoclan or Caveclan, whichever I think will fit." Echo mewed. "I am going to settle in the forest across in the river. We have to pass by there anyways." Sage pipped in, her eyes wide in excitement. Stone nodded in approval. "That's good, I wish you the best of luck." He mewed, flicking his tail.

"We should find the gathering place, and since Maple can not travel you two should head out and see if the valley is at the end of the forest." Echo mewed. Stone thought for a long moment. "Alright, let's go ahead and tell everyone." He got up and let out a yowl, for all cats that could gather to do so. "Echo is going to stay in this cave, while Sage is going to move into the forest on the other side of the river." The group nodded and cheered for the two, until Stone silenced them.

"Moon, Echo, Sage, and myself are going to travel forward, at least for now. We are going to each find a gathering place, and then Moon and Echo will go back. Sage and myself will find the valley, and with hope it will be at the end of the forest." He mewed, flicking his ear. The cats mewed their farewells for until they returned, and then the four set off.

The four had traveled a good couple hours, commenting on certain places. It wasn't until they made it into a clearing did they stop and look around in awe. "This is it, this is the place." Sage mewed in awe. She turned to the others. "Let us all rest here, in the morning we shall keep going." She said before curling up close to one of the mounds in the clearing. The others settled down close, but they all drifted off to sleep.

When they woke, they were not in the clearing they had found, instead; they were in a clearing surrounded by bushes, trees, streams, and other things. "Welcome, my children." Roaring Tiger was in front of them. Stone was the first up. "Roaring Tiger? Why are we here?" He asked, his voice soft. "You are here to get your nine lives, you will each settle down in your homes soon, and now is the best time." Roaring Tiger raised his head. "Stone, you shall be first. Although you have more travels ahead of you, you have lead your brothers and sisters far." The tom mewed proudly, taking a step forward. "Your nine lives are; Honesty, Bravery, Wisdom, Strength, Loyalty, Fairness, Courage, Leadership, and Protection." Stone took a deep shaky breath before dipping his head. "Thank you." He mewed. "No, thank you, Stonestar. You have gone far to make sure this has happened." He turned to the others. "Each of you have the same kinds of lives, I expect you each to lead your clans well."

The cats cheered, greeting each other with their new names. When they woke again, they were in the clearing. Birds flew overhead, and Sagestar got up tiredly. She glanced around before remembering she had gotten her leader name. "We are leaders now." She mewed in awe, looking at the others. "But we still have some way to go." Stonestar mewed. "Echostar and Moonstar, you two can head back." Stonestar mewed before turning to Sagestar. "Let's get going."

The two cats padded along in silence, listening to the birds that called out. They hunted a little bit along the way, but by now they were getting close to the edge of the forest. "I'm sure by the looks of

it Moonstar will take the part of the forest close to the river." Sagestar purred and Stone nodded. "Honestly if I don't find the valley with what we see here I shall be alright with it, I think we should stay close enough go we can attend gatherings with each other." He mewed. Sagestar nodded. "I'm sure we should, after all, why make a lone clan?" She asked.

The two cats suddenly stopped. What they found wasn't what Stonestar was looking for. Instead, it was a stretch of moors and the mountians in the further distance. "The moors will have to do." He signed, looking longly. "Let's head back...we shouldn't keep the others waiting for us." He mewed. "We need to rest, we have been traveling all day." She mewed, flicking her tail. Stonestar shrugged before padding over to a oak tree. He settled down beside it and rested his head on his paws before falling asleep. Sagestar settled down as well. She looked around. "This is my home now, and it is time for me to lead it...it is time for me to lead Sageclan." She smiled wide. 'Why not name it after myself? When i'm later dead and in with Roaring Tiger, i'll be remembered centuries later. I'll watch over everyone, for seasons to go.' She thought before yawning. She laid her head down and curled her tail close to her face before falling asleep herself.

Chapter Three

When the two cats returned, they were meet with a shocking sight. Maple was curled up beside two small kits, one was a solid white other then some brown speckles on it's back, and the other was a grey tabby. "Maple had her kits while you were all out, they were born right as Echostar and Moonstar made their way into the cave." Salmon mewed as Stonestar raced over to Maple. Sagestar purred. "That's wonderful, i'm guessing they told you everything." She mewed, blinking kindly to Salmon who nodded. "Indeed. Also we have two cats who wondered by, they say they are willing to join the clans." Salmon turned. "Freckle, Coda, you two can come forward." Salmon said kindly. Two cats padded out of the darkness. The bigger one, a tom, was black and brown, with sharp yellow eyes. The other was much smaller, but she was a solid black. Her eyes were also yellow. "I am Coda." The tom mewed, and then flicked his tail. "This is my sister Freckle." Freckle shyly squeaked, she wasn't much older then a kit. "Which clan do you wish to join, Coda?" Sagestar asked, glancing over to Stonestar who was happily talking to Maple.

"Whichever clan that will live in a forest. We enjoy dirt under our paws and trees over our heads." Coda mewed, flicking his tail. Sagestar nodded. "Then welcome to Sageclan. I am Sagestar, first leader of the clan in the forest." She turned and spoke aloud. "We should give everyone here proper clan names!" She had to speak lower when one of the kits let out a squeal. "I will start, with my medicine cat." Sagestar turned to Salmon, who was looking at her excitedly. "From this day on, you shall be known as Salmonleaf, since you will be known for your wide skills of medicine." The others cheered softly, and then she turned to the new cats. "From this day on, Coda. You shall be known as Nightbranch. You will also be known as our first warrior." She touched noses with him before turning to Freckle, who was looking at her with wide eyes.

"Freckle is to young to be made an apprentice, from this day on, you shall be known as Owlkit, until you are given your warrior name." Owlkit looked at her with wide eyes until she scrambled back over to her brother. He gently licked her ear. Moonstar then spoke. "I shall give my brother his new name." Moonstar turned to Moss. "From this day on, you shall be known as Mosspool. For your calmness and kindness to help others." The others cheered.

After the last ceremonies were over, the last bits of cats were named Sunnywhisker, Mapleheart, and her two kits were named Frostkit and Heatherkit. Everyone after that either hunted or resting, getting ready to make the journey to their new homes.

Chapter Four

[image]

Nearly a moon had slowly passed since Sagestar had made her clan. A thunderpath had been made between her clan and Stoneclan, but thankfully the other clan had found a safe passing, with a hole that was made underneath. Four more cats had joined since the pass moon, and one of them were expecting kits.

Sagestar was resting on top of her den, which was a fallen tree. She and the other leaders were sent dreams each night, in teachings of certain things. So far her and the others had learned about deputies, ceremonies, and boundries. Soon she would learn about codes.

Sagestar raised an eye when she heard happy squeaking. She noticed Nightbranch was playing with his little sibling, Owlkit. Owlkit was nearly five moons old, and soon would be ready to be made an apprentice. She purred slightly at the scene before sitting up and yawning. She turned and noticed Doepelt padding into camp with Tigerfur and Meadowcloud behind her, each carrying prey. "Good catch!" She called before jumping down. Doepelt ducked her head down, embarassed. "I-It was nothing really, Tigerfur honestly helped make the catch possible." She mewed, giving Tigerfur a greatful glance. The tom shrugged. "I got to the mouse before it could even get to the hole, but I wouldn't of noticed if it hadn't of been for Doepelt." Sagestar's ears tilted backward and she noticed Wolfpelt making her way threw the nursery, her belly swaying under her.

"I'm shocked you're out with being due so soon." Nightbranch commented, glancing up from Owlkit. "I want to be out while the sun is still warm, it feels great. Nothing like in my old twoleg house." She breathed and Nightbranch nodded. Sagestar blinked and watched for a moment longer. She noticed since the queen came, the two were close. "They'd have their own kits in no time." She commented to herself in a purr before turning to the others. "Hope you guys are ready for battle pratice soon! I'm going to let everyone eat but after that we got to head out!" She declared, her eyes bright. The warriors nodded and went to settle down to eat. She grabbed two mice herself before trotting over to the medicine cat den. It was a bunch of brambles surrounding some bushes, but it was wide enough for enough cats to slip inside and feel comfy.

"Salmonleaf, got you lunch!" She called and padded in. It took a moment for her to get used to the darkness, but once she did she noticed Salmonleaf was putting herbs in holes. "Sorry, i was restocking this morning, I wanted to get it all done. Is it sun-high now?" She asked, stepping out of the den. She blinked a couple times. "Wow, I wouldn't of even noticed." She breathed before dipping her head to Sagestar. "Thanks for the mouse." She said before taking it. She settled down outside her den, and Sagestar settled down beside her. After some silence and eating, Salmonleaf spoke. "I won't go to the gathering, with Wolfpelt being so close I don't want her start kitting while i'm not here." She mewed, flicking her tail. "That's fine, and understandable." Sagestar blinking softly to her friend. "With the way it looks, she is going to have about four...such a big litter.." Salmonleaf purred. "I'm glad the clan is growing...but with the whole growing thing, don't you think you should consider getting a deputy soon?" Salmonleaf asked.

Sagestar merely just shrugged. "I won't get one until we get some apprentices, or unless we get a lot of cats to join." She mewed, but then gently placed her tail on her friend's shoulder. "Don't worry, I have it planned." She smiled wide before finishing. "Well, i'm off, going to battle training. Keep an eye on Wolfpelt, and send Nightbranch if there is any trouble." She gently nodded before getting up. She called for the others before padding out of camp.

Sagestar ducked away from the blow Tigerfur threw out. She hissed, it nearly raked her face. "Careful! Claws sheathed!" She reminded him. Tigerfur blinked. "Sorry...I thought I had them sheathed.." He mewed, glancing at Meadowcloud and Doepelt who were doing the same moves. Sagestar signed and shook her head. "You shouldn't hurt your clan mates." Her ears tilted to rustling in the bushes. She turned and noticed Nightbranch jumped out. "Salmonleaf! Wolfpelt!" He panted, lowering his head and wheezing for breath. The other warriors stopped and padded forward. The moment Nightbranch had a breath he spoke. "Wolfpelt is kitting! And some new cats are here to join the clan.." He breathed. Sagestar nodded. "Get back first, all of you." She narrowed her eyes at them and flicked her tail. Each cat raced forward. She soon followed.

Sagestar trotted into camp, noticing a small group of cats in the center of the clearing. From what she quickly judged, there was about four to five of them. She turned her head as Nightbranch padded up to her, the dusk's light making his pelt glow almost russet like. "Salmonleaf says she is fine. She is still kitting, but it won't be long until it's over.." He suddenly ducked his head. "I hope she is ok.." Sagestar calmly rested her tail on his back. "She will be fine, i'm sure you will be...a good..." Sagestar suddenly felt weird. "A father to them? I hope..We weren't going to say anything, but I guess we are noticeable.." Nightbranch shrugged and chuckled. Sagestar nodded before padding over to the group of cats. "Hello, each and every one of you. What may I do for you?" She asked. A light grey tabby padded forward, dipping his head. "Hello, I am Mist. This is my family and friends. We and others have traveled for a place to live. We found Stoneclan first, but not all of us wanted to live in the moor. We have all split up, but, us." He turned to his travel-mates, who each nodded. "Have decided the forest was good."

He turned back to Sagestar. "May we join you?" He asked, flicking his fluffy tail. Sagestar nodded. "Of course, you will be watched closely, but we thank you for joining us. Please wait for your ceremonies until our medicine cat returns from the nursery." She turned and called to Meadowcloud and Doepelt. "You two explain to them about the clan. I'm going to check on Salmonleaf and

Wolfpelt." The two she-cats nodded and started to speak. She turned and padded to the nursery.

Sticking her head inside the bramble den, she noticed all was silent. She padded inside, and blinked as she noticed Salmonleaf was giving Wolfpelt some herbs. Four small kits were at Wolfpelt's side. "I see it went well." She mewed cheerfully. Wolfpelt nodded. "Two toms and two she-kits." Salmonleaf purred softly. "Names?" Sagestar asked. Wolfpelt nodded. "The tan she-kit is going to be named Creamkit. The other brown and tan she-kit is named Bramblekit." She pointed to the two before turning to the biggest kit, who was brown with some tan specks. "He is going to be named Turtlekit." She then nodded to the last tom, who was brown with a white chest. "And he is going to be Mudkit." She yawned tiredly, before licking her kits. Salmonleaf got up and lead Sagestar outside.

"Let her sleep, she must be tired for awhile. Those kits are not going to help." The light ginger she-cat purred, her eyes sparkling. "Well, we have some new cats as well." Sagestar's ears tilted towards them. "Let's get some ceremonies on." She padded over to her den and jumped up. She yowled for cats to join her before speaking. "Today we have some cats joining us. We can only thank Starclan their paths have led them here." She turned to Mist. "Mist, from this day on, you shall be known as Silvermist. I hope you shall learn our ways." She went on with the others. She named a she-cat who was white and grey Snowheart, as well as a brown and white patched tom Skywing. She then named a tabby she-cat Dewcloud.

Lastly there were two apprentice aged cats. She turned to the light grey one first. The small she-cat looked up, her light blue eyes wide. "You shall be known as Rainpaw. You shall be mentored by Meadowcloud. I trust she will teach you all there is to know." The two touched noses, and then Sagestar turned to the darker grey tom. "You will be known as Greypaw. Your mentor will be Nightbranch. I trust he will teach you the ways of the clan." Once they touched noses and the cats cheered, she raised her tail. "Two more things. One, is that I must choose a deputy." She looked amoung the cats, happy they were finally growing. "From this day on, Nightbranch shall lead beside me." The cats cheered, and Nightbranch looked at her; shocked. Owlkit raced over and nudged

her brother. "Congrats!" She squeaked happily. Nightbranch dipped his head. "T-Thank you." He mewed.

"Now, since we have new cats, I need them to be trained on clan life. Nightbranch, Meadowcloud, Doepelt, and Tigerfur shall be my helpers." She turned to them, who each rose. "Nightbranch, you will take Silvermist, and of course your apprentice Greypaw. Tigerfur, you will take Snowheart and Skywing. Meadowcloud and Doepelt will work together, training Dewcloud and Rainpaw. You each will work in groups together, and of course I will come in here and there to help." She mewed before jumping down. "For now, you all may just hunt or relax, I will talk to Nightbranch to make patrols for dawn." She flicked her tail for Nightbranch to follow her in her den. She slipped inside and settled down. He settled down as well.

"I was thinking on taking Greypaw and Silvermist on border patrol in the morning. Then Tigerfur can take Snowheart and Skywing at Sun-high." Nightbranch commented as soon as they had settled. "Good, then Meadowcloud can take Dewcloud and Rainpaw at Sun-down." She commented, flicking an ear in thought. "For dawn hunting patrol have I'll take Dewcloud and Doepelt with me." She mewed. "I'll think of more patrols later on." Nightbranch promised. Sagestar nodded, flicking an ear. "I'm going to rest now, you should rest as well." She sent him out before settling down, flicking her ear as a bug flied by. She wrapped her tail around her paws before closing her eyes.

Chapter Five

Sagestar was dozing in her nest when Nightbranch padded into the den. "Sorry to wake you Sagestar, but all patrols have been made for the day." He mewed, flicking his tail. Sagestar blinked her amber eyes and gazed up. "Of course." She yawned, sitting up. She felt tuffs of fur poking up, so she turned and quickly groomed them down. Nightbranch waited for her to finish, he seemed to want to say something.

Once done, she turned to him. "Yes?" She asked. "I was wondering who you planned to take with you to the gathering, that's all...I know it's a couple more sunrises away but I can't stop thinking about it." Nightbranch admitted, looking at his paws. Sagestar laughed slightly, but gently put her tail on his shoulder. "I'm not sure, how about we pick together. Come on, we might as well go get something to eat while we talk."

The two padded out of the den, side by side. Sagestar noticed Meadowcloud was speaking to Rainpaw, the she-cat's amber gaze happily bright. She then padded over to the fresh-kill pile, but noticed it was empty. "Sorry! I should of said that the dawn patrol just left not long ago!" Nightbranch mewed in guilt. Sagestar just chuckled and shrugged. "It's fine, now sit." She settled down, and Nightbranch did the same. "So why do you want to go to the gathering so much?" Sagestar couldn't help but ask. She was excited to, but she still wanted to hear from him. Nightbranch started to speak happily, and Sagestar listened. Suddenly her eyes caught movement from the warrior's den, and she noticed Silvermist slip out.

Sagestar suddenly seemed to hear her heart beat. It seemed so loud that she was scared Nightbranch might hear. She tried to pull away, but suddenly Silvermist's light blue gaze met hers. They stared at each other for what seemed seasons, until Silvermist looked away.

Her face hot, she quickly turned back to Nightbranch, who was still going on. 'Thank Starclan he didn't see me staring at Silvermist...he'd think i'd have bees for a brain.' Sagestar thought with guilt. "But nevermind that, who do you think we should take to the gathering?" Nightbranch suddenly asked. "U-Uh..." Sagestar felt lost for words. She shook her head quickly and then spoke. "Perhaps D-Doepelt, Meadowcloud, Greypaw, and Skywing?" Nightbranch nodded and then spoke up. "Lets also take Rainpaw and Silvermist then." He added. She blinked in shock at his name but then nodded. "Of course. I'm going to go for a walk though, i'll be back in a little bit." Nightbranch nodded and got up. He headed for the nursery.

Sagestar watched as he slipped inside before she padded out of camp. She thanked the small noises she heard above and around her, helping thoughts stay off her mind as she walked down a path. Soon she found herself jumping over some rocks, and heading near the river that cut off the way to the Gathering place. She listened to the sounds of the river, enjoying the soft roars. She then dipped her head close to the water and lapped up the cold taste. When she turned she noticed Silvermist jump up to the clearing she was in. "Hello Sagestar." He mewed politely, dipping his head. She nodded to him, although she felt her heart beating fast.

The two sat there in silence for awhile, watching the water. In a way, Sagestar felt scared to break the silence the tom gave her. Suddenly he spoke. "I want to thank you for letting us join those sunrises ago. Greypaw and Rainpaw are learning well. Their mother would be so proud of them." He let out a sad sign. "I hate to ask...but what happened to her?" Sagestar tilted her head slightly. Silvermist's eyes were expressionless. "Her name was Flower. We lived in a huge group far away from here. I lead the group, along with another two cats. She was one of those two. She was given a message to come here, and so we did. I not long after became her mate, and we had Rainpaw and Greypaw." Sagestar noticed he was trembling. She without thinking sat closer to him, wrapping her tail around the tom. He said nothing against it, so she stayed where she was.

"Flower grew sick because of the winter's harsh storms. Our healers

didn't know what to do, for we had no herbs to help us. She then just grew worse...and worse..the group started to grow worried, and some younger cats started to rebel." He took a breath. "Eventually, it was only Flower's sister, Snowheart...who stayed. The rest of her family, her mother, sisters, brothers, father....they left her. But Snowheart trusted me, and wanted to help be there for the kits." He shook his head, looking into the river. Sagestar was staring at him with wide eyes. "Flower didn't make it, but she died without much pain in the end. We carried on in her memory, and then when we arrived we found out parts of the group had joined the clans around here. The only place they didn't join was here."

When Sagestar didn't comment, he spoke again. "That's why we came here instead. We've had no where else to go, and no one wanted us." Sagestar suddenly got up. "Come on, let's hunt. We shouldn't dive on sad memories, we should make new ones." She purred before racing back the way she came.

At first she thought he wasn't following her, but then she realized he was hard on her heels. She laughed and raced along, before suddenly stopping. She opened her mouth and let scents drift in her mouth. She noticed the faint scent of squirrel. She crouched and glanced around, before noticing the small fluffy creature along the roots of a tree. She flicked an ear before suddenly pouncing, catching it without it even noticing. She quickly killed it, and looked up as Silvermist padded up with a crow. "Nice! Let's head back!" She called, though her mew was muffled. The two padded along, enjoying what the forest had to give to them.

Chapter Six

Sagestar sat outside in the clearing, close to her den. She was grooming her fur, watching as Owlkit played with Nightbranch. Her tail flicked slightly, and she sat up. "Nightbranch, Owlkit, come here!" She called, smiling warmly. They padded over, question in their eyes.

"How old is Owlkit now?" Sagestar asked, watching as the she-kit attention was caught by a beetle. Nightbranch thought for a long moment. "She is about a sunrise or so from being six moons." Nightbranch commented, thinking thoughtfully. Sagestar nodded. "I think I will go ahead and make her an apprentice." Nightbranch blinked in thought and nodded happily before racing over to Owlkit.

Sagestar didn't wait to see her reaction, instead she jumped up on her den. "Let all cats who can hunt in the forest gather!" She learned that from a Starclan cat she met in her dreams a couple nights ago. Cats slipped out of their dens, yawning tiredly. They all settled down, looking up at Sagestar. Sagestar scanned the clearing, before noticing Wolfpelt was sitting at the entrance of the nursery, her kits also watching with wide eyes.

Once the clan had settled down, she began. "Today we have a kit who has reached the age of six moons and is ready to become an apprentice. Owlkit, step up." The black kit looked up in shock. She quickly let Wolfpelt groom her before she scrambled up beside Sagestar. "By naming apprentices, we show that Sageclan will survive and remain strong." Sagestar said proudly. She scanned the clearing, before her eyes rested on Tigerfur. "Owlkit, from now on you will be known as Owlpaw. Tigerfur, you are ready for an apprentice. You will be Owlpaw's mentor." The clan cheered

happily as the two touched noses.

Sagestar noticed Wolfpelt was also watching proudly. Sagestar smiled, but the spoke again. "I will also name who will be going to tonight's gathering!" She waited for the cheers to die down. "Nightbranch, Doepelt, Meadowcloud, Greypaw, and Skywing, Rainpaw, and Silvermist. All of you will rest and be off all patrols." She jumped down and watched as cats talked to each other happily.

Sagestar settled down in the shade, and she noticed Salmonleaf was letting one of Wolfpelt's kits watch her organize herbs outside. She then turned her head as she heard someone walk up to her. "Oh hello Silvermist." She mewed kindly. He set down a rabbit in front of her. "Want to share?" He asked. She nodded, letting him settle down beside her. They ate in silence, enjoying the cool air and watching the clan.

The gathering cats settled down in the clearing, they had been the second ones to make it. First was Echoclan. Echostar was sitting on one of the rocks, and Sagestar joined him. "Your clan seems to be growing." Echostar commented as Sagestar settled down. "Same to you." She mewed kindly. She noticed some cats were keeping away from each other, but others chatted. Soon other clans joined them, and they started the meeting.

"I will go first." Echostar mewed, flicking his tail. "Echoclan is well. We have three new apprentices and four new warriors. We also have two new queens. We had to chase some hawks off, but other then that we have been fine." He allowed Moonstar to speak next. "We have been well as well. We have a new warrior, Rivercloud. We also have a new medicine cat apprentice, Shallowpaw." Cats cheered, and then Sagestar padded up. "We have been well as well! We have four new kits; Turtlekit, Creamkit, Mudkit, and Bramblekit. We also have a new apprentice, Owlpaw! She sadly wasn't able to be here this gathering, but i'm sure she will the next." Cats nodded and cheered, and so she let Stonestar go.

"Everything is fine, Frostkit and Heatherkit are growing to become fine kits, and are soon to become apprentices. We have a few new

cats as well." He then raised his head high. "But there is something Sunnywhisker would like to say." He turned to the she-cat, who was shyly standing up. She ducked her head and quickly padded forward before jumping up beside him.

Sagestar was watching with question. "I went exploring...I-I was curious, and soon I had found an old foxhole..." Sunnywhisker mewed, her whiskers quivering. "I went inside, something seemed to be guiding my paws. Soon I found this..this pool. I touched it, and the next thing I knew, I was speaking to Starclan." Cats gasped in shock. Suddenly Sagestar spoke. "It seems that Sunnywhisker has found our new starclan meeting place." She said, and the only leaders nodded. "I think each medicine cat should go there every halfmoon and speak to Starclan." Sunnywhisker mewed, standing proudly. "And if every clan agrees, we can start by next halfmoon." Stonestar put in, flicking an ear. Cats mumbled to each other at first, but slowly started to put in mews of agreement. "Then that is it, we shall do that for now on. Thank you Sunnywhisker, you will be remembered for a long time for finding this place." Sagestar mewed proudly before jumping down. "We can all share tounges for awhile, and then head home." She called out, she padded over and settled down beside Silvermist, who gladly let her join in beside him.

Chapter Seven

About three moons had passed since Sunnywhisker had announced she had found the gathering place. Sagestar watched from her den as snow gently fell. She noticed Silvermist heading her way with a hare in his jaws. He slipped inside and settled beside her. She let out a loud purr. "I brought you this." He mewed, nudging it to her. She happily ate, for she hadn't in about a day.

Suddenly her stomach heaved. Her eyes went wide and she yowled in pain. Silvermist shot up. "Hold on! I'll grab Salmonleaf!" He raced off. A few mintues later Salmonleaf entered the den. "Silvermist, I need you to step back." The medicine cat mewed gently. Silvermist narrowed his eyes to her, but did as he was told. Sagestar felt like she was going to get sick. Salmonleaf inspected the hare before turning to Sagestar. "Did you eat crowfood Sagestar?" She asked gently. Sagestar shook her head, before lowering it into her paws and slowly moaning in pain.

Salmonleaf inspected her a few moments more before speaking firmly. "You're kitting Sagestar." Sagestar only let out a wail of pain. She didn't even notice Creamkit had slipped into the den. "Creamkit! Since you're here go get me Borage leaves, Chervil, and Juniper Berries! Quickly!" The kit dashed off. Salmonleaf was inspecting Sagestar. "You seem that you are going to have two." She said softly.

It had seemed to take all day, but finally two small kits were curled up at Sagestar's side. One was a small russet she-kit. The other was

a ginger and grey tom. Sagestar was looking at them proudly, and her tail curled close to them. "They are perfect." She said softly. "And healthy! I'm shocked that tom's lungs don't bring all the clans here! They are so powerful!" Salmonleaf purred. Creamkit was watching silently with wide eyes. Salmonleaf shooed the kit out, and she went to tell the clan. Silvermist slipped inside, and his eyes were wide. "They are wonderful!" He mewed softly, nuzzling Sagestar. She let out a loud purr, and the russet she-kit squealed. She softly groomed her before glancing back up at Silvermist.

"What should we name them?" She asked. Silvermist sat in thought before speaking. "Let's name the tom Thunderkit." He mewed, and then Sagestar spoke. "Then the she-kit shall be Foxkit." They nodded on the names, before curling close together.

A couple of sunrises had passed since Foxkit and Thunderkit had been born. Thunderkit was shockingly very silent, while his sister seemed to be completely different. She went outside the leader's den first, and was the first one to play with Wolfpelt's kits. Nightbranch had thankfully kept the clan running, but every cat of the clan seemed to be in love with Sagestar's kits.

Sagestar sat outside her den, noticing snow had stopped falling. It had actually for a couple of days, so now the clearing was empty of snow, other then the sides of the clearing. Thunderkit sat curled up next to Sagestar, while Foxkit was playing with Bramblekit, Turtlekit, and Mudkit. Creamkit was somewhere with Salmonleaf most likely. "Why don't you go play with Wolfpelt's kits?" Sagestar asked Thunderkit. He only shook his head, staying close to Sagestar's belly. She signed before noticing Greypaw was glaring at her. The moment their eyes met, he quickly looked away and stalked over to Owlpaw, who was eating a mouse. Sagestar blinked, confused. 'What's his deal?' She thought with a growl. She then noticed Rainpaw padding in with Meadowcloud, fresh prey in their jaws. Sagestar whispered for Thunderkit to go into her den before she padded over to Rainpaw and Meadowcloud. "May I speak to Rainpaw alone please?" Sagestar asked Meadowcloud. Meadowcloud blinked in confusion before nodding. "Of course. Rainpaw, see what she wants."

Rainpaw blinked before nodding, the two padded silently over to Sagestar's den. "I wanted to ask you about Greypaw, he seems fairly..distant lately." Sagestar commented. Rainpaw looked at the ground and shuffled her paws. "I don't...know what you're talking about.." She mewed, but her eyes flashed with guilt. "You seem distant as well, want to tell me why?" She asked, but her voice was growing serious. Rainpaw let out a sign.

"Ever since Foxkit and Thunderkit were born Greypaw has stopped talking to me. He was upset you were taking Silvermist away from us. He tried to tell me that as well, but I told him that dad can love whoever he wants...after that Greypaw has been super upset..." Rainpaw mewed sadly, her ears lowering. Sagestar blinked in shock. "Have you told Silvermist?" She asked kindly, and Rainpaw shook her head. "You should go tell him, have him talk to Greypaw. He is out on patrol right now, but you speak to him as soon as he gets back." Rainpaw nodded. "Alright.." She then padded off. Sagestar watched her go, and she looked down as Thunderkit nudged her. "Does Greypaw hate me?" He asked softly. Sagestar blinked in shock, but she gently nuzzled him. "Of course not, he is just..confused." She said softly. She turned and called for Foxkit. "Come along now, time for your nap!" Foxkit growled but then scrambled up to her. "Alright mom!" She mewled and raced into the leader's den. Sagestar and Thunderkit followed after her.

Chapter Eight

"From this day on, you shall be known as Rainheart and Greyclaw." The clan cheered the names. Sagestar watched proudly as Rainheart and Greyclaw ducked their heads in happiness. Sagestar looked amoung the new cats. Turtlepaw, who was given Dewcloud as a mentor. Creampaw, who became Salmonleaf's apprentice. Bramblepaw, who was given Silvermist, and Doeheart who was given Mudpaw. Sagestar jumped down, and one of the new warriors that had joined the clan padded up to her. Her name was Mossyfur, for her pelt was light grey and very fluffy.

"This clan is very exciting! Thank you for letting me join!" She mewed happily before bounding off to join her patrol. Thunderkit padded up beside her and settled down, watching the clan silently. Foxkit raced over to Turtlepaw, and playfully tackled him. Sagestar noticed Greyclaw nuzzle Owlpaw happily. "Wont be long before they are mates." Sagestar heard Meadowcloud chuckle to Tigerfur, who nodded with a purr. Sagestar smiled, letting out a yawn. She called for Foxkit and then slipped into her den to rest.

"Sagestar! Sagestar!" Sagestar was jolted awake. She in a daze looked up, seeing Rainheart above her. "Stoneclan is attacking!" She screeched. Thunderkit and Foxkit jolted up, and so did Sagestar. "Stay here with the kits!" She demanded. Rainheart nodded, and Foxkit squealed. "I can take on Stoneclan!" She was quickly quieted by Rainheart. Sagestar raced into the clearing, and she was given a horrible sight. The clearing had exploded with fighting. Sagestar let out a screech and pounced on a cat who was attacking Owlpaw. She

bit into the tom's belly, clawing at his soft spots. The brown tom let out a screech and wiggled away before racing out of the clearing.

"All apprentices stay close to your mentors!" She yowled. She then noticed Stonestar, attacking Silvermist. Sagestar screeched in rage and barreled into the tom. "Why did you attack my clan! Out of all cats I never thought you would do this!" Stonestar snarled, slashing at Sagestar's muzzle. Sagestar looked at him with wide eyes, and then she noticed maddness there. She was suddely shoved off him, and she let out a screech of pain as his feet pushed on her belly. She was sent tumbling on the ground. She felt her leg twist, and she let out a wail. "Help!" She squealed. She suddenly felt claws on her throat, but her eyes were misty with blood.

Suddenly everything went dark. She then awake in Starclan. She was looking around with wide eyes. "My clan! My clan!" She wailed, whimpering. Roaring Tiger padded out of nowhere, looking at her with sad eyes. "I never thought my son would go insane with power...but after the death of Heatherpaw near the Sageclan borders, he blamed your warriors...he didn't even notice the fox scent...he was in such sad rage..." Roaring Tiger shook his head. "He won't stop..if you do not kill him...so many cats will die." Sagestar looked around, her eyes wide as she saw the bodies of clan mates. "No." She whispered, slightly wailing. "I can only heal your leg, but you must be the one to kill him." Roaring Tiger gently put his head on her shoulder, and she could suddenly move it again. "I'm sorry.." He mewed gently before fading away.

Suddenly she was back in the clearing. She staggered up, and noticed Stonestar was standing over the body of Creampaw, who was whimpering in pain and fear. Sagestar suddenly pounce, letting out a screech. She felt like her world suddenly stopped. She sliced as hard as she could into Stonestar's neck. The next thing she knew, the clearing was silent, and Stonestar laid dead. She panted heavily before tumbling down, lost of breath.

Sagestar slowly opened her eyes, she was in the Medicine Cat den. Thunderkit and Foxkit was beside her, and as she opened her eyes Foxkit scrambled over and got Salmonleaf to come over. As the she-

cat padded over, she noticed Salmonleaf had a scar going from her face to her shoulder. Her left eye had been blinded. "You look like a mess." Sagestar rasped, chuckling before coughing in pain. "You should see yourself, you look like you became a chewtoy for a dog." Salmonleaf chuckled, but her voice hinted such saddness and pain that it made Sagestar whince. "How is everyone?" She asked, not daring to sit up. "At least everyone but the kits were hurt." Salmonleaf muttered, her playfulness gone. "The cats who got it worse were Creampaw, Nightbranch, you, me, Rainheart, Snowheart, and Owlpaw." Salmonleaf nodded to the cats who were all laying in nests close to Sagestar. Sagestar shook her head sadly. "This didn't need to happen, but Stonestar grew powermad after he found his kit Heatherpaw dead near our borders."

Salmonleaf blinked in shock. "What?" She mewed, her eyes wide. Sagestar went on. "I saw Roaring Tiger, and he explained why the battle happened. We can only hope Stoneclan's new leader will be better." She slowly got up, her body feeling weak. "You should rest Sagestar.." Salmonleaf mewed, but the russet and ginger she-cat raised her tail to silence her. "I'm going to check on my clan, then I will rest in my den." She limped out of the den, and Foxkit and Thunderkit were beside her. Sagestar watched as cats were slowly fixing nests, glancing over to Sagestar as she limped to her den. Silvermist rushed over, his eyes wide, but Sagestar ignored him. She limped inside her den and into her nest. Foxkit and Thunderkit curled up beside her, and soon they all fell into an uneasy sleep.

Chapter Nine

It took about a moon for the clan to finally settle down after the battle. Everyone was still uneasy, and everyone seemed to be glancing over their backs. Sagestar was doing better, but not enough to join back on patrols. Nightbranch hadn't healed, he had a nasty scar on his neck that didn't want to get better. Every other cat seemed to of gotten back, but each of them seemed to be scarred mentally. Owlpaw was sitting beside Greyclaw, curled up together and sharing a rabbit. Silvermist sat with Rainheart, the two of them talking in quiet whispers. Foxkit was her normal self again, and even Thunderkit started to play some.

Salmonleaf padded over to Sagestar, settling down beside her. "We should talk.." She said quietly, her soft tone was gone. Sagestar blinked and looked up, not saying anything. "Nightbranch won't get better..his wounds are...too deep. Even if he has a chance to get somewhat better, he won't be able to keep doing is warrior duties." Salmonleaf said flatly. Sagestar looked over to Thunderkit and Foxkit playing. "I feel like i'm doing everything wrong..." Sagestar said softly, but Salmonleaf didn't reply.

Sagestar was too tired to pad up on her den, but she did it anyways. Her paw steps felt weak, but she did her best to balance. Eventually she had to sit down, not being able to stand fully. She called her clan to gather, and soon she spoke. "I have not wanted to do this, and if that battle never happened I would not have to. But the moon is rising, and it is time for me to pick a new deputy. Nightbranch is too wounded to keep being my deputy." Mews of

shock rung around the clearing, and Sagestar was too tired to silence them. She waited for awhile, letting the yowls turn to quite mumbling. "I say this under Starclan's watchful eyes. Tigerfur, you will be my new deputy." The tom blinked and then dipped his head. "Thank you Sagestar, I will try my best, and I hope Nightbranch gets well enough to approve your choice." Cats cheered his name, and Sagestar wobbled down.

Sagestar was about to turn back into her den if it hadn't of been Tigerfur who padded up to her. "Owlpaw's warrior assignment is at dawn, I will tell you how it goes." Sagestar blinked and nodded. "Of course." She mumbled before tiredly padding to her den. She rested her head on her paws and wrapped her tail around herself. She was too tired to think about anything, so she simply fell asleep.

"Owlfeather! Owlfeather!" The clan cheered for the new warrior. Owlfeather puffed her chest out proudly. Sagestar watched with tired eyes before turning her head. "We will also have new apprentices. Foxkit and Thunderkit have reached the age of six moons and they are ready to become apprentices." Cats watched eagerly, wanting to know if they would get one of the leader's kits. "Foxkit, from this day on, you will be known as Foxpaw." Her tail flicked and she spoke. "Snowheart, you will be given Foxpaw as an apprentice, I hope you teach her well." The two happily touched noses. She then turned to Thunderkit, who was sitting calmly. "Thunderkit, from this day on you will be known as Thunderpaw. Your mentor will be Skywing. I hope he teaches you all that he knows." The two also touched noses, and then the clan happily cheered.

Sagestar noticed Nightbranch was sitting at the entrance of the elders den. He had been made an elder that morning, and the tom was shockingly fine with it. Before the leader could pad over, Wolfpelt trotted over and nuzzled him. She signed and glanced over to Silvermist, who was padding over to her. "Our kits are finally apprentices." He purred happily. "I'm glad, they can be a pain in the tail sometimes." She purred happily though, her tail flicking. "The clan is growing, Sageclan is growing." She said softly, breathing in Silvermist's warm breath.

FINAL

Sagestar slowly opened her eyes. The sense of ending fallen over her. She blinked and looked around, noticing Starclan cats surrounding her. She saw Salmonleaf, Nightbranch, and so many others. She got up and looked around. "Welcome to Starclan." Nightbranch mewed softly, dipping his head. The scar on his neck was gone. "I have lived for many seasons, and now it was my time to leave, let me see my clan one last time." She said softly. They dipped their heads and padded threw the trees and bushes. She padded forward, and soon came to the stream.

She closed her eyes for a moment and then thought of her home. Soon she was in the Sageclan clearing, and it was night. She looked around, a day must of past since her death. She padded swiftly and silently around, first heading to the warriors den. She looked inside and smiled. Thundercloud was sound asleep. Near him lay her old clan mates, as well as Turtlefur, and Mudshade. She slipped out of the warriors den and padded over to the apprentices den, ducking her head inside. Inside lay Owlfeather's and Greyclaws two kits; Whisppaw and Smokepaw. Whisppaw was a solid black like her mother, and Smokepaw was a small grey tabby tom. She then padded over to the leader's den.

Inside that den lay her very last made deputy, Rainheart, or now Rainstar. Tigerfur would of been made leader if it hadn't of been for the greencough that had killed him. She turned and padded to the elders den. Inside lay Meadowcoud, Doepelt, Silvermist, and Wolfpelt. Sagestar smiled softly and nuzzled Silvermist, although she knew her mate couldn't feel her. "I will wait forever until you join me, to watch over our kin for seasons on end." She whispered softly in his ear. It seemed to twitch as she spoke.

Lastly she turned and went to the nursery. Inside lay Foxclaw and Bramblefur. Foxclaw had three kits beside her, while Bramblefur

was swollen with kits. Sagestar purred, knowing Thundercloud was Bramblefur's mate, while Turtlefur's was Foxclaw's. Sagestar looked at Foxclaw's kits. The single tom was russet like his mother, with a few brown specks on his back. Foxclaw had named the tom Russetkit. She then turned to the light russet she-kit, who was curled close to Russetkit. Her name was Duskkit. The last she-kit was a very light brown kit. Her name was Fadedkit. She blinked as Creamheart poked her head in, checking on the kits. She of course didn't notice Sagestar, and soon the medicine cat slipped back out.

Sagestar signed softly, closing her eyes. "I have led this clan here, and I will make sure to watch it for as long as I can." She vowed before vanishing, heading back to her new home in Starclan.